



YOUR

# CAP TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

## PROGRAMS AT-A-GLANCE

### WHAT IS CAP?

Boulder's Climate Action Plan, usually referred to as the CAP, is a set of aggressive, city-funded programs, services and focus areas aimed at reducing local greenhouse gas emissions. Boulder City Council passed a resolution in 2002, encouraging our community to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to the target established by the Kyoto Protocol. In 2006, City of Boulder voters became the first in the country to pass a tax (the CAP tax) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the impact of human activity on climate change.

### WHAT HAS CAP ACCOMPLISHED?

#### CAP-tax funded programs have:

- ▶ Stopped the growth of greenhouse gas emissions and achieved real reductions;
- ▶ Helped thousands of residents and businesses implement energy efficiency improvements at home and work;
- ▶ Earned Boulder one of the highest rates of installed solar capacity per capita in the United States;
- ▶ Diverted over 40 percent of waste to composting and recycling facilities instead of landfills;
- ▶ Reduced vehicle miles traveled.

### HOW ARE WE DOING?

Boulder has made progress in slowing the growth of greenhouse gas emissions, but we will not meet our Kyoto Protocol goal by 2012 as originally hoped. This is largely because Colorado has one of the most carbon-intensive sources of electricity in the country. We are currently fueled predominantly by coal and natural gas. The good news is that, thanks to CAP and other programs, emissions have leveled off, and, in some areas, have shown modest reductions.

As we move forward, we are once again seeking to improve programs and are working to establish a new Climate Action Commitment that takes into account all we have learned so far.

### WHAT DOES CAP CURRENTLY ENCOMPASS?

CAP was re-tooled in 2009 based on community input and lessons learned in the first two years. In 2010, new policies and programs were developed in collaboration with community partners and were fully launched in January 2011.

There are six focus areas that address our community's climate goals:

**REDUCE USE**  
**BUILD BETTER**  
**RAMP UP RENEWABLES**  
**TRAVEL WISE**  
**WASTE NOT**  
**GROW GREEN**

#### REDUCE USE

This is the biggest source of Boulder's greenhouse gas emissions, and the area where we can continue to make the biggest difference. Did you know that 59.6 percent of Boulder's greenhouse gas emissions are due to the electricity used in buildings? When you also factor in natural gas use, this accounts for a whopping 76.3 percent of Boulder's greenhouse gas emissions.

#### BUILD BETTER

Energy efficiency is most effective when it is designed into buildings from the beginning.

#### RAMP UP RENEWABLES

How much energy we use is just one side of a coin. Ramp Up Renewables aims to change the fuel sources of our electricity. About 85 percent of our energy comes from fossil fuels—just over 60 percent of Boulder's electricity is currently sourced from coal and another 24 percent comes

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from natural gas. Reducing carbon emissions requires shifting the source of our energy from fossil fuels to renewable resources, such as hydroelectricity, solar, wind generation and geothermal heating to diversify the sources of our power.

## TRAVEL WISE

Vehicle fuel accounts for over 20 percent of Boulder's greenhouse gas emissions. Investments in public transit and multi-use paths have achieved significant reductions in vehicle miles traveled.

## WASTE NOT

Landfilled solid waste accounts for about 2.5 percent of Boulder's greenhouse gas emissions. Decomposing landfill waste emits methane, a greenhouse gas over 20 times as potent as carbon dioxide. While Boulder does not have a local landfill (our waste is shipped to Erie, Colorado), we still count the emissions attributed to Boulder's waste disposal in the greenhouse gas inventory.

## GROW GREEN

Trees help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by sequestering CO<sub>2</sub>. They also create shade and wind protection, reducing building heating and cooling needs. Other benefits include improving air quality, protecting water sources, and reducing storm water runoff.

## WHICH OF THESE CAP TAX FUNDED PROGRAMS CAN I PARTICIPATE IN?

Whether you're a business owner,

employee, resident, or renter, there are programs for you. Here are a few ways you can contribute to our community's greenhouse gas reduction goals:

### ARE YOU A HOMEOWNER?

#### **EnergySmart**

EnergySmart is the easy way to a more comfortable home that saves energy and money. EnergySmart will help you find the sneaky ways your home is wasting energy, as well as great deals on energy efficiency upgrades. You'll even get your own Energy Advisor to install free energy saving items; help you prioritize energy efficiency upgrades; collect and evaluate bids from qualified contractors; and find and apply for rebates and financial incentives.

[www.EnergySmartYES.com](http://www.EnergySmartYES.com)  
303.544.1000

#### **Solar Rebates**

Boulder residents and businesses that have installed photovoltaic or solar thermal systems may be eligible for a rebate. Solar rebates come from the city's Renewable Energy Fund. The remainder of the Renewable Energy Fund is dedicated to rehabilitation or installation of renewable energy systems, especially on low- or moderate-income housing and nonprofit organizations in the city.

[www.bouldercolorado.gov/Climate-Action/RampUpRenewables](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/Climate-Action/RampUpRenewables)

### ARE YOU A RENTER?

#### **SmartRegs**

SmartRegs requires all rental housing, which represents about half of Boulder's

housing stock, to meet an energy efficiency standard by 2019. Ask your landlord to enroll your property in EnergySmart, and a licensed SmartRegs inspector will complete the prescriptive checklist for your home; provide expert advice on the most cost-effective energy efficiency measures; assist with contractor selection and rebate paperwork; and install FREE energy-saving light bulbs and shower heads.

[www.bouldercolorado.gov/SmartRegs](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/SmartRegs)

### ARE YOU A BUSINESS?

#### **EnergySmart**

Schedule a FREE EnergySmart Assessment for your business to identify energy-saving opportunities. Your expert Energy Advisor will help you prioritize your opportunities; find contractors; and identify financial incentives. Energy Advisors are available to assist in optimizing and upgrading existing equipment, and can help with all stages of project implementation.

[www.EnergySmartYES.com](http://www.EnergySmartYES.com)  
303.441.1300

#### **10 for Change**

Join over 110 Boulder area businesses that have committed to reducing their energy use and waste by at least 10 percent.

10 for Change provides education on sustainability best practices; tours of member businesses; networking events; connections with EnergySmart; and publicity through marketing, events, and an annual awards ceremony.

[www.10forChange.net](http://www.10forChange.net)